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UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.6/48/L.16

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/C.6/48/L.16, the General Assembly would decide that a United Nations congress on public international law be held in 1995, as proposed in part III of the report of the Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law 1/ and request the Secretary-General to proceed with the preparations for the congress and keep the Member States informed of the status of the preparations.

B. Relationship of requests to the proposed programme of work

2. The proposed activity relates to subprogramme 3, Progressive development and codification in international law, under programme 9, International law, in section 7, Legal activities, of the proposed programme budget for 1994-1995. 2/

C. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

3. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would convene a congress on public international law of one-week duration in 1995. The Secretary-General would proceed with the preparations for the congress and keep the Member States informed of the status of the preparations.

D. Modifications in the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1994-1995

4. Should the General Assembly approve the requests contained in the draft resolution, the following addition would have to be made in the citation of activities in section 7, Legal activities, under programme 9, International law, subprogramme 3, Progressive development and codification of international law, activity 1, International cooperation, which should now read:

> "External relations: organization in 1995 of a congress on public international law in the framework of the United Nations Decade of International Law; coordination, in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 47/31 of 25 November 1992, of activities undertaken in the framework of the United Nations Decade of International Law by international organizations working in the field of international law."

E. Additional requirements

5. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, it would not involve additional requirements during the biennium 1994-1995. As specified in part III of the report of the Working Group, "the congress should be held within existing resources and be assisted by voluntary contributions." 3/ In accordance with paragraph 32 of the same report, it was agreed that the congress would be convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York in 1995, and that the duration of the congress would be five working days, with two plenary meetings each day. It is assumed that interpretation and translation services would be required in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. It is also assumed that there would be 10 pages of pre-session documentation, 10 pages of in-session documentation and 35 pages of post-session documentation.

6. The extent to which the Organization's permanent conference-servicing capacity would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conference for 1994-1995. However, provisions are made under section 25 E of the proposed programme budget for 1994-1995, not only for meetings programmed at the time of budget preparation but also for meetings that would be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences are consistent with the pattern of meetings in past years. Consequently, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, no additional appropriation would be required under section 25 E of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

F. Summary

7. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.6/48/L.16, no additional appropriations would be required under section 7 or 25 of the proposed programme budget for 1994-1995.

Notes

1/ A/C.6/48/L.9.

2/ A/48/6 (Sect. 7).

3/ A/C.6/48/L.9, para. 34.